

PETUNIA PLANT NAMED 'SUNBELBUSTA'

Botanical/commercial classification:

*Petunia hybrida*/Petunia Plant

5 Varietal denomination: cv. 'Sunbelbusta'

BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

10 The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of Petunia plant originated from crossing of a Petunia hybrid variety called 'CHBS05' as the female parent and 'CHBS07' as the male parent.

15 The Petunia is a very popular plant that is used for flower bedding and potting in the summer season. There are only a few Petunia developed series of small flower petunias, such as, 'SUNTORY SP-R' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9557), 'Sunberubu' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9754), 'Sunbelchipi' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,355) and  
20 'Sunbelki' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,558). These are spreading type, a medium plant height, abundant branching, and a high resistance to heat and rain and disease. However there are only a few varieties having a great profusion of flowers, vivid purple flower color, a  
25 very small flower size and a high resistance to rain, heat, and disease. Accordingly, this invention was aimed at obtaining a new Petunia variety having vivid purple colored petals, and very small flowers, combined with the above features.

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Progress

The female parent 'CHBS05' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunbelbusta' is a strain of our breeding  
35 lines, having an erect growth habit. It has small single flowers, the petals having a vivid red-purple color.

The male parent 'CHBS07' (unpatented) used in the crossing of 'Sunbelbusta' is a strain of our breeding lines, having a decumbent growth habit. It has small single flowers, the petals having violet color.

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In July 1998, crossing of 'CHBS05' as the female parent and 'CHBS07' as the male parent was conducted at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan. In October 1998, seedlings were obtained from that crossing. These  
10 seedlings were grown in pots in glasshouses and were evaluated. One seedling was selected in view of its growth habit, flower size and color in October 1999. That seedling was propagated by cutting and a trial was  
15 carried out by flower potting and bedding from April to October 2000. The botanical characteristics of that plant were then examined, using similar varieties 'Sunbelribu' (unpatented) and 'Sunbelkubu' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,279) for comparison. As a result, it was concluded that this Petunia plant is distinguishable from any other  
20 variety, whose existence is known to us, and is uniform and stable in its characteristics. Then the new variety of Petunia plant was named 'Sunbelbusta'.

In the following description, the color-coding is in  
25 accordance with the Horticultural Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S. Colour Chart).

#### SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

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This new variety is unlike any Petunia commercially available as evidenced by the following unique combinations of characteristics.

1. Outwardly spreading growth habit with abundant  
35 branching.

2. Having a great profusion of blooms with the entire plant remaining in bloom for a considerable period

of time.

3. The flowers are single and very small. The apex shape of petal is acute. The petal color is vivid purple (R.H.S.N81A) with deep purple (R.H.S.83A) vein.

5 4. The plant has a high resistance to rain, cold, heat and disease.

The new variety 'Sunbelbusta' differs from the similar variety 'Sunbelribu' in the following points.

10 1. The spreading area of 'Sunbelbusta' is larger than that of 'Sunbelribu'.

2. The internode length of 'Sunbelbusta' is shorter than that of 'Sunbelribu'.

15 3. The flower diameter of 'Sunbelbusta' is larger than that of 'Sunbelribu'.

4. The petal color of 'Sunbelbusta' is vivid purple (R.H.S.N81A) with deep purple (R.H.S.83A) vein. That of 'Sunbelribu' is vivid purple (R.H.S.N87A).

20 5. Inside color of the corolla throat of 'Sunbelbusta' is vivid yellow (R.H.S. 7B) with brilliant yellowish green (R.H.S. N199A) vein. That of 'Sunbelribu' is vivid greenish-yellow (R.H.S.151C).

25 6. Outside color of the corolla throat of 'Sunbelbusta' is strong purple (R.H.S.83D) with dark reddish-purple (R.H.S.79A). That of 'Sunbelribu' is light yellow-green (R.H.S.1C).

The new variety 'Sunbelbusta' differs from the similar variety 'Sunbelkubu' in the following points.

30 1. The growth habit of 'Sunbelbusta' is outwardly spreading. That of 'Sunbelkubu' is decumbent.

2. The plant height of 'Sunbelbusta' is higher than that of 'Sunbelkubu'.

35 3. The leaf length of 'Sunbelbusta' is longer than that of 'Sunbelkubu'.

4. The petal color of 'Sunbelbusta' is vivid purple (R.H.S.N81A) with deep purple (R.H.S.83A) vein.

That of 'Sunbelkubu' is vivid purple (R.H.S.N81A).

5        5.     Inside color of the corolla throat of  
'Sunbelbusta' is vivid yellow (R.H.S. 7B) with brilliant  
yellowish green (R.H.S. N199A) vein. That of 'Sunbelkubu'  
is brilliant greenish yellow (R.H.S.5C).

6.     Outside color of the corolla throat of  
'Sunbelbusta' is strong purple (R.H.S.83D) with dark  
reddish purple (R.H.S.79A). That of 'Sunbelkubu' is pale  
yellow green (R.H.S.1D).

10       7.     The apex shape of the petal of 'Sunbelbusta' is  
acute. That of 'Sunbelkubu' is obtuse.

15       This new variety of Petunia plant 'Sunbelbusta' was  
asexially reproduced by the use of cuttings at Yokaichi-  
shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, and homogeneity and stability  
thereof were confirmed. The instant plant retains its  
distinctive characteristics and produces true to type in  
successive generations.

#### 20     BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

25       The depicted plants had been reproduced by the use  
of cuttings and were photographed during April 2003 while  
growing outdoors in 20 cm wall pots at an age of  
approximately 4 months at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

30       FIG. 1 is a photograph of a typical plant of the new  
variety of Petunia plant 'Sunbelbusta' while growing in a  
pot.

FIG. 2 is a photograph of a close view of flowers  
and leaves of the new variety of Petunia plant  
'Sunbelbusta'.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

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The botanical characteristics of the new and  
distinct variety of Petunia plant named 'Sunbelbusta' are

as follows when observed during September at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, at an age of approximately 9 months.

Plant:

- 5      Growth habit. - Outwardly spreading.  
      Plant height. - Approximately 23.8 cm.  
      Spreading area of plant. - Approximately 49.0 cm.  
      Blooming period. - April to late October in the  
10      southern Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not  
      change throughout this period.

Stem:

- Thickness. - Approximately 1.8 mm.  
      Pubescence. - Normal.  
      Branching. - Abundant branching, especially secondary  
15      branches.  
      Internode length. - Approximately 0.9 cm.  
      Color. - R.H.S. 165A (grayish yellow brown).

Leaf:

- Whole shape. - Lanceolate. The apex shape is acute, and  
20      the base shape is attenuate.  
      Length. - Approximately 4.4 cm.  
      Width. - Approximately 1.0 cm.  
      Color. - Upper side color is R.H.S. 137C (moderate  
      yellow green). Lower side color is R.H.S. 146C (moderate  
25      yellow green).  
      Thickness. - Approximately 0.5 mm.  
      Pubescence. - Normal.

Flower:

- Facing direction. - Horizontal.  
30      Type. - Single.  
      Shape. - Funnel-shaped, with five-fissures.  
      Shape of petal tip. - Acute.  
      Lobation. - Medium  
      Waving of petal. - Weak.  
35      Diameter. - Approximately 3.5 cm.  
      Color. - Petal; R.H.S. N81A (vivid purple) with R.H.S.  
      83A (deep purple) vein. Bottom color of the corolla

throat; R.H.S. 7B (vivid yellow) with R.H.S. N199A (brilliant yellowish green) vein. Outside color of the corolla tube; R.H.S. 83D (strong purple) with R.H.S. 79A (dark reddish purple) vein.

5        Reproductive organs. - 1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens. The stigma is club-shaped and R.H.S. 144C (strong yellow green) in coloration. The style is approximately 6 mm in length and R.H.S. 144D (light yellow green) in coloration. The ovary is R.H.S. 165A (grayish reddish  
10       purple) in coloration. The stamens commonly are of variable length from approximately 5.7 to 9.1 mm. Pollen is formed in a quantity that is typical of *Petunia hybrida* and is near R.H.S. 9B (vivid yellow) in coloration.

15       Fertility. - Fertile, but self-incompatible.

      Peduncle. - Approximately 0.7 mm in diameter and approximately 1.8 cm in length. The texture is smooth.

      Seeds. - R.H.S. N186A (strong red) in coloration, approximately 0.6 mm in diameter, and generally round.  
20       The quantity is typical of *Petunia hybrida*.

      Calyx. - Narrow. 5 sepals fused at the base.

Physiological and ecological characteristics:

      High resistance to cold, heat, rain and disease such as Powdery mildew. The resistance to heat and rain is very  
25       strong.

Blooming:

      This new variety of *Petunia* plant is most suitable for flower bedding and potting, particularly in hanging pots or planters. Pinching of old blossoms will enhance the  
30       formation of new blossoms.